

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of transmitting data between a ground segment~~first location~~ and a plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~ comprising:

_____ a forward link including:

_____ obtaining a first data stream at said ~~first location~~ground segment,
the first data stream including a data header having routing information and a data payload having other information;

_____ packet compressing said first data stream to maintain said data header while compressing said data payload;

_____ sending said packet compressed first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~; and

_____ if said routing information in said data header matches an address
of at least one of said plurality of airborne segments, de-compressing said packet compressed first data stream at least at said one of said plurality of airborne segments;
and

_____ a return link including:

_____ obtaining a second data stream at least at one of said plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~;

_____ bulk compressing said second data stream to compress all of said second data stream;~~and~~

_____ sending said bulk compressed second data stream to said first location; and
_____ de-compressing said bulk compressed second data stream at said ground segment.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising framing said first data stream after said step of packet compressing said first data stream and prior to said step of sending said packet compressed first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~.

3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising spreading said first data stream after said step of packet compressing said first data stream and prior to said step of sending said packet compressed first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~.

4. (original) The method of Claim 3 wherein said spreading step further comprises applying a forward error correction code to said first data stream.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising modulating said first data stream after said step of packet compressing said first data stream and prior to said step of sending said packet compressed first data stream to said plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising spreading said second data stream after said step of bulk compressing said second data stream and prior to said step of sending said bulk compressed second data stream to said ~~first location~~ground segment.

7. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said spreading step further comprises applying a forward error correction code to said second data stream.

8. (original) The method of Claim 6 wherein said spreading step further comprises applying a chipping code to said second data stream.

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising modulating said second data stream after said step of bulk compressing said second data stream and prior to said step of sending said bulk compressed second data stream to said ~~first location~~ground segment.

10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of de-compressing said packet compressed first data stream at least at said one of said plurality of airborne segments further comprises~~comprising~~ packet de-compressing said first data stream ~~at said second location~~.

11. (currently amended) The method of Claim 10 further comprising de-modulating said first data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said first data stream at said one of said plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~.

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim 10 further comprising de-spreading said first data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said first data stream at said one of said plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~.

13. (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein said de-spreading step further comprises applying an inverse forward error correction code to said first data stream.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim 10 further comprising de-framing said first data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said first data stream at said one of said plurality of airborne segments~~second location~~.

15. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of de-compressing said bulk compressed second data stream at said ground segment further comprises~~comprising~~ bulk de-compressing said second data stream ~~at said first location~~.

16. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15 further comprising de-modulating said second data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said second data stream at said ~~first location~~ground segment.

17. (currently amended) The method of Claim 15 further comprising de-spreading said second data stream prior to said step of de-compressing said second data stream at said ~~first location~~ground segment.

18. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein said de-spreading step further comprises applying an inverse chipping code to said second data stream.

19. (original) The method of Claim 17 wherein said de-spreading step further comprises applying an inverse forward error correction code to said second data stream.

20. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising packet encrypting said first data stream prior to said step of sending said first data stream to said ~~plurality of airborne segments~~second location.

21. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~20~~ further comprising bulk encrypting said second data stream prior to said step of sending said second data stream to said ~~first location~~ground segment.

22 - 27. (Cancelled)